

Reply to Office Action dated March 9, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 21, 24-25, 31 and 34-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 21, 25, 31 and 34 are amended and claims 23 and 33 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments (1) place the application in condition for allowance; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, the above amendments incorporate features of dependent claims 23 and 33 into independent claims 21 and 31 as well as make independent claims 21 and 31 consistent with the allowed claims. These amendments are provided at this time in view of the allowable subject matter. No new issues are raised. Entry is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

The Office Action rejects claims 21 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by U.S. Patent 6,219,839 to Sampsell. The Office Action also rejects claims 23-25 and 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sampsell either alone or in combination with one of U.S. Patent 5,850,340 to York or U.S. Patent 6,567,032 to Mullaly. The rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 1, 2 and 36 are allowed. By this Amendment, each of independent claims 21 and 31 is amended in a manner consistent with the allowable subject matter discussed on page 3 of the Office Action.

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More specifically, independent claim 21 recites encoding a packet signal output from a television circuit of a television, and sending the encoded packet signal to a personal computer. Independent claim 21 additionally recites that the encoded packet signal output from the television circuit includes one of mouse data, keyboard data and microphone data for controlling a function performed by the personal computer.

Sampsell and York (as well as the other applied references) do not teach or suggest the claimed encoded packet signal output from the television circuit includes one of mouse data, keyboard data and microphone data for controlling a function performed by the personal computer. Accordingly, independent claim 21 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 31 recites that the first interface unit sends a first packet signal generated in the television to the personal computer over a communications link and the first packet signal controls a function performed by the personal computer. Independent claim 31 also recites that the first packet signal includes at least one of mouse data and keyboard data. Independent claim 31 further recites the second interface unit sends a second signal generated in the personal computer to the television over the communications link and the second signal includes at least one of a monitor display signal and a sound signal to be projected and to be played through the television. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, the applied references do not teach or suggest these features. Thus, independent claim 31 defines patentable subject matter.

Each of the independent claims defines patentable subject matter. Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject

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matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2, 21, 24-25, 31 and 34-36 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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